

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1222  
ANSWERED ON:26.11.2002  
GUWAHATI UNIVERSITY  
BHIM PRASAD DAHAL

**Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether Guwahati University has submitted a proposal for setting up an 'Aquaculture-cum-biodiversity centre' in the University;
- (b) if so, the broad features and estimated cost thereof;
- (c) whether the similar centres already exist in other universities;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the decision taken on this proposal alongwith the details of funds released therefor?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. RITA VERMA)

(a) & (b): According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission (UGC), the Guwahati University has submitted a proposal under UGC Special Assistance Programme (SAP) for its Department of Zoology to work in the following thrust areas:-

- (i) Aquaculture and aquatic resources;
- (ii) Bio-diversity; and
- (iii) Bio-informatics.

The University sought financial assistance of Rs.59,37,500/- for a period of five years for research work in the above mentioned thrust areas.

(c) & (d): UGC has assisted following 5 universities in the similar fields under SAP:-

- i) Andhra University (DSA) – Marine Biology and Aquaculture
- ii) Delhi University (CAS) – Aquatic Biology and Fish Biology
- iii) Jiwaji University (DRS) – Aquatic Biology
- iv) Kerala University (DSA) – Aquaculture, Fisheries, etc.
- v) Panjab University (DSA) – Aquatic Biology, etc.

(e): The proposal of the University was considered by the Expert Committee of UGC and on its recommendations, the UGC has approved the following financial assistance to Zoology Department of Guwahati University for a period of 5 years w.e.f. 1.4.2002:-

(Rs. in lakhs)

| Non-Recurring                                            | Amount |
|----------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| i) For renovation/construction of tanks for fish culture | 5.00   |
| ii) Equipment                                            | 16.95  |

Recurring

- i) Project Fellows (2) their actual salary @ Rs.3600/- p.m.

|                                   |       |
|-----------------------------------|-------|
| ii) Cost of hiring charges,       | 13.75 |
| Advisory Committee meetings       |       |
| And travel/field work for 5 years |       |

Out of the approved grant of Rs.35.70 lakhs, UGC has already released an amount of Rs.18.70 lakhs (Rs.16.95 lakhs for equipment and Rs.1.75 lakhs for first year) to the University.